

DATE: May 21, 2021

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SUBJECT: Friday Update

Lots happening and a busy City Council Agenda:

First the City Council Meeting on Monday.

- Public Hearing for the adoption of the Final Draft of the City's 6th Cycle (2021-2029) Housing Element along with an updated Safety Element. The Planning Commission reviewed the plans on Tuesday and the City Council will consider adoption for final submittal. Overall good work by staff and the City's planning consultant, Placeworks.
- Consideration of the award of the almost \$6m Sludge Dewatering Facility at our Wastewater Treatment Facility.
- Streetscape tiles as recommended by the SHAAC Committee. Tiles will include historic tiles for Robert Gordan, William Gwynn and William Henry McDaniel. 4 non-historic tiles will be for Henry Starkey funded by the United Auburn Indian Community, Ty Rowe by the Hillmen Foundation, Scott Lindgren by the Endurance Capital Committee and a tile commemorating the Veterans Day Parade.
- Economic Development Commission Budget revise.
- Employee and Elected Officials Health and Welfare Benefits Policy
- Caltrans Roundabout Utility Agreement
- Professional Services Agreement with NEXGEN for construction management for the Sludge Dewatering Project.

For all the details on the agenda, here is a link to the entire packet:

https://auburn.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view_id=2&event_id=1618

A couple items internally and on other business:

- The Police Department is in the midst of an update on their overall strategic plan. The leadership team met for multiple days this week to review their operations and continue to chart their course. I attended for a short period and was impressed!
- We have a really good Planning Commission! They did an exceptional job this week on their review of the Housing and Safety Elements. In my pre-meeting review, the members are really engaged, thorough and ask really good



questions. The best meetings are when you have a really prepared group who are ready to represent the community.

- Kudos to really well done events. The Cruise Night last week was really well run! Old Town sponsored their Co-op with really good music and business engagement. The Chamber held their first “mixer” since February, 2020. Each event was fun and represented the best parts of Auburn.

Finally, I would like to spotlight a business in town which is making a difference.... Old Town Pizza. Small business is the backbone of any community and Old Town Pizza is just that for Auburn. In my brief tenure, they seem to be everywhere both supporting and investing in Auburn.

OTP recently expanded their Auburn presence from their Old Town location into the Gold Country Fairgrounds, bringing activity and synergy to a once quiet space. They are expanding into a new location on High Street with a remodel of a former thrift store into an amazing new restaurant, roof top dining location and a new investment presence along the Highway 49 Corridor. The Fairground location brings outdoor dining, music and a venue for everyone from Rotary to the Chamber to hold events not allowed indoors.

OTP and their generosity is amazing. Their hosting and sponsorship of the activities is beyond generous but is an obvious reflection of their commitment to the success of all of Auburn!

Owner Reese Browning recently was appointed on the Economic Development Commission and brings a wealth of insight and a proactive spirit to the group. His contributions are both big and small picture which creates proactive energy.

Over the years, I have learned that the success of a town like Auburn is built upon the foundation of the small business entrepreneur who is “all in” for where they live, work and recreate. In my career, I have come to appreciate that it’s the OTP’s of the world who are the granite foundation for the success and vitality of our community. Well done!

Have a nice weekend.

John